

CAPI Newsletter



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The Commission on the Status of Iowans of Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage (CAPI) launched its website in September 2005. In keeping with our continued efforts to reach out to the API population in Iowa and elsewhere, we bring you this premier issue of the CAPI E-newsletter. The quarterly publication may also be viewed on our website: www.iowacapi.org.



Feature Story: Mt. Pleasant, IA

Mt. Pleasant is a town in Henry County in the southeast region of Iowa. Its API population makes up 3.59% of the 8,751 residents (US Census 2000). The CAPI Commissioners held a meeting in the area (downtown photo shown) last September 2005 and hosted a reception at the “name of restaurant” to meet key people in the community. A Cultural Festival to celebrate diversity in the area was promoted by Commissioner Lin Ly. A subsequent interview with restaurant owners was reported by Commissioner Ly. Need report here.

ASIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, 2006, YEAR OF THE DOG.

Saturday, February 11, 10 AM- 4:45 PM. Sponsored by the Tai United Foundation. For more info, visit www.tai@taicommunity.com.

February 11, 6-9 PM, Chinese Association new Year Dinner & Performance at Central Market, Central College, Pella, IA. For more info, visit www.iowachinese.org.

Asian Volunteer Recognized



Surasee “See” Rodari was recognized as AdmirAsian Person of the Year in 2005 and bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Iowa Volunteer Commission last November.

Rodari, vice-president of Bankers Trust in Des Moines, has lived in Iowa for 33 years. “Volunteerism is a job that’s never done. I know exactly what those new immigrants are going through. I’ve been through it, and I didn’t want people to face the difficulties I did,” Rodari stated. He and his wife volunteer much of their free time to help other Southeast Asian immigrants. (Des Moines Register, Nov. 12, 2005)

***Special thanks to Logan Design for creating the CAPI logo (check website.)**

Fast Facts: Asians in Iowa

*Asian groups settled primarily in Polk, Story & Johnson counties.

*Iowa numbers:

1950: 869

1990: 17, 970

2005: 45,000

*The Iowa Asian Alliance in Des Moines has organized the Asian Heritage Festival since 2003, held during the API Heritage month of May.

*Garden project (1.7-acre site donated by City of Des Moines) celebrates Asian culture in Iowa, something to look forward to this year.